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State group partners with Alaska Commercial stores to promote vaccination

Vaccinated children can enter drawing for toy husky dog signed by Iditarod champion

ANCHORAGE — Vaccinate Alaska Coalition is partnering with Alaska Commercial Company (AC) stores in 17 communities during the Iditarod race in the “I Did It By TWO!” campaign to promote vaccination of children, on time, every time.

Parents of young children who are up-to-date on their vaccinations can enter their children’s names in a drawing for a free toy husky dog that wears a collar signed by four-time Iditarod champion Martin Buser. The participating Alaska Commercial stores will display the toy dogs, conduct the drawing, and award the dog. Contact participating AC stores for the date and time of drawing and for more details. (A complete list of participating communities is at the end of this press release.) All state public health centers are participating in the “I Did It By TWO!” toy husky dog project.

The Iditarod Race commemorates the 1925 Serum Run, a dog team relay from Nenana to Nome to bring serum needed to stop a deadly diphtheria outbreak. Today, the Iditarod Trail Committee and Vaccinate Alaska Coalition, a nonprofit organization, honor this “Race to Vaccinate” with the “I Did It By TWO!” campaign to increase awareness of the importance of timely childhood immunization. At the ceremonial Iditarod Race start, many dogs wear jackets that display the campaign message “Immunize Alaska’s Kids.”

“Children need the majority of their vaccinations in the first two years of life. That is the time when they are most vulnerable to serious, but preventable, diseases like measles, whooping cough, and flu,” said Doreen Stangel, who works for the Alaska Immunization Program and serves as the liaison to Vaccinate Alaska Coalition. “On-time vaccinations protect children at age 2 from 14 preventable diseases. We see increased risk because 1 in 3 children in Alaska are not fully immunized by the time they are 2 years old.”

For additional information about childhood vaccinations, contact the Alaska Immunization Program at 1-888-430-4321 or 269-8088, or visit <http://epi.alaska.gov/immunize>.

Below is a list of communities where AC stores, public health centers, and other clinics are working together to promote childhood immunization through the “I Did It By TWO!” campaign:

- Barrow — North Slope Borough Wellness Center
- Bethel — Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Regional Hospital, Bethel Public Health Center, Bethel Family Clinic
- Cordova — Cordova Public Health Center, Ilanka Community Health Center
- Craig — Craig Public Health Center
- Dillingham — Dillingham Public Health Center
- Fort Yukon — Yukon Flats Health Center, Fort Yukon Public Health Office
- Hooper Bay — Hooper Bay Sub-Regional Clinic
- Klawock — Alicia Roberts Medical Center
- Kotlik —Kotlik Clinic
- Kotzebue —Maniilaq Public Health Nursing
- Mountain Village — George Waskey Memorial Clinic
- Nome — Nome Public Health Center
- Pilot Station — Pilot Station Clinic
- Saint Michael — Katherine Kobuk Memorial Clinic
- Saint Paul — Saint Paul Health Center
- Unalakleet — Anikkan Inuit Iluaqutaat Sub-Regional Clinic
- Yakutat — Yakutat Community Health Center

Below is a list of other locations where childhood immunization providers are participating in the 2012 Vaccinate Alaska Coalition “I Did It By TWO!” toy husky dog project:

- Anchorage
 - Municipality of Anchorage, Public Health Center

- Alaska Family Medicine Associates
 - Dr. James D. Briggs
 - Dr. Mary Ann Jacob
 - Full Spectrum Pediatrics
 - Alaska Regional Hospital NICU
 - Polar Pediatrics
 - Family Practice Associates
 - LaTouche Pediatrics
 - The Children's Clinic
- Delta Junction
 - Delta Junction Public Health Center
- Fairbanks
 - Fairbanks Public Health Center
 - Tanana Valley Clinic
- Haines
 - Haines Public Health Center
- Homer
 - Homer Public Health Center
 - Kachemak Bay Medical Clinic
- Juneau
 - Juneau Public Health Center
 - Glacier Pediatrics
- Kenai
 - Kenai Public Health Center
- Ketchikan
 - Ketchikan Public Health Center
- King Salmon
 - Camai Community Health Center
- Kodiak
 - Kodiak Public Health Center
- McGrath
 - McGrath Health Center
- Nome
 - Nome Public Health Center
- Palmer

- Palmer Family Medicine
- Petersburg
 - Petersburg Public Health Center
- Seward
 - Seward Public Health Center
- Sitka
 - Sitka Public Health Center
 - Mountainside Family Healthcare
- Tok
 - Tok Public Health Center
- Valdez
 - Valdez Public Health Center
- Wasilla
 - Ptarmigan Pediatrics
 - Family Medicine of Alaska
 - Lighthouse Family Medicine
 - Mat-Su Health Services
 - Mat-Su Public Health Center
- Wrangell
 - Alaska Island Community Services
 - Wrangell Public Health Center